

Nation

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Special Justice and Policing Issue



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Law and Order: Eeyou Istchee

By Will Nicholls

Our focus in this issue is on justice and policing. Several stories this week raise a multitude of questions about the current models of criminal justice, punishment and rehabilitation in Eeyou Istchee and in First Nations across Canada.

There are many different models out there. At present, Waswanipi is making some interesting inroads into adopting their own "rule of law." They have taken Canada's Criminal Code and are modifying it to fit their community. It will be interesting to see the results of their efforts.

Some First Nations communities have a process that brings together the victims, their victimizers and their families, as well as Elders and trained professionals to look at appropriate sentences and restitution.

Some newly developed approaches deal with youth crime. There are many ways of looking at justice and peace-keeping in First Nations circles.

In the Cree communities we do not have models or methods of dealing with helping either a victim or a perpetrator. Rehabilitation is something we will have to deal with in light of certain judgments and sentences.

Police in our communities are often overworked and frustrated. There are over 1,000 case files and only 54 officers to handle them all.

In many Cree communities it is not surprising to see children younger than 10 wandering the streets after 2 a.m. Our police are not equipped to handle this; our cops are not our communities' babysitters.

Someone has suggested that parents should start patrolling Cree streets and taking the kids home. While this method may seem drastic, cooperation with the police and band councils may be useful. This might go a long way to cutting

down on some crime rates and the rising problem of gas sniffing by youth in some communities. It could even be organized and guided by the police to ensure there are no problems. A sort of roving neighborhood watch.

Another issue that people are reluctant to talk about publicly is white-collar crime, as much of it is committed by people in positions of influence. Most of it is kept quiet unless one of the Cree media picks it up. Even then it is difficult to document and report on.

There are stories of corporate credit cards being misused and covered up. People accepting "finder's fees" – that's when a company will pay off one of the people judging which firm should be awarded a contract. Often, insurance and housing funds are misused, abused or missing. Some people use band or Cree entity vehicles for personal use. This may not seem like much until you consider the amount of gas and current prices. Hundreds of thousands of dollars are lost in this way that could go towards creating a healthier community.

Many who do this do not even consider the consequences of their actions or think they are not doing anything wrong.

This is a far cry from the traditions of yesteryear when people watched out for each other and no one would consider stealing. As Crees we may have to examine the costs of keeping such actions in the dark. The silence is usually justified by the fact there are "sensitive negotiations" happening. A policy of "don't rock the boat right now" seems to be the norm.

In the end though, we have to ask ourselves if our silence fosters an environment in which theft and abuse of Cree monies becomes acceptable.

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on the cover

Photo: Will Nicholls

Design: Alexandre Costa

The evolution of Cree justice



Back in the day when comic books were the only things we had to stimulate the imagination, a hero always emerged to deliver justice. He would track 'em down, call the verdict and put the bad guy away for eternity on some desolate planet in the dark reaches of deep space.

Of course, that was a comic book featuring Judge Dread, but often we crave for the same swift justice to ease the pangs of discontent and disillusion that is offered in today's world of crime busting and court sessions.

Today, reality dictates that the courts usually deliver justice. The bad guys and victims alike are brought in by the good old boys and girls in blue, who you only see on the night you're canned in the local jail and the night before you appear in court. But perhaps I can rewind back to a time when justice and policing were conducted in a different fashion...

In the old rules, the chief made all the decisions on behalf of his people and often had to come in to intervene with an angry drunk who became too cantankerous, and the matter was settled promptly. For more serious matters, a lone RCMP officer was dispatched for all the investigations, paperwork, deputizing and mandating judges and jury alike, with full authority of the Queen, and the accused would be found guilty or sometimes innocent, depending on the circumstance.

Several generations later, a new type of policing arrived in the form of a private security guard system, the James Bay Police Force. Mostly the occasional drunk was again dealt with a night in the can (still the same today) and on occasion a robbery or break-in was investigated.

One investigation bordered on jail-house torture to gain information from the accused and force a confession.

That led to a swift arrest and quick trial. But justice was nowhere in sight as none of the so-called police were really qualified or licensed to practice.

After a decade of this oppressive protection, a Cree police force came to be with limited authorities. No handguns, no fingerprinting, no real definitions of laws that could work to aid in properly arresting bad guys and a semi-subservient attitude from the southern provincial police force made for a poor delivery system for policing.

Justice was and is still delivered by the "Flying Circus," a court who must cover an area the size of France and England plus a couple of PEI's. Hundreds of cases are often in the dockets, often delivering light taps on the wrists of hardened young offenders. These young pros often have so many B&E notches on their belt that it's replaced by the time they become legal adults and face the same judge for the umpteenth appearance.

At the same time, Cree lawyers seem to be on the rise, maybe noticing that growing market of crime and misdemeanors can pay a pretty penny, adding more to the well-known quip that crime doesn't pay (the criminals, just the lawyers).

Seeing this real policing in action for myself, as stealthy Glock-armed Cree SWAT teams converged in my backyard to capture a fugitive a few quiet evenings ago, I wondered if justice would prevail for this unfortunate soul. Is justice enough or can policing be effective enough to enforce our carefully (or hastily) drafted rules and regulations?

All I know is that it looks like many more sleepless nights are ahead for victims of crime as the courts swell with people who either made the wrong choice or had none to choose from.

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Big Trout Lake

by Steve Bonspiel

First Nation faces \$10 billion lawsuit

Platinum prospectors trying to legally evict Ontario band from its territory

The Big Trout Lake First Nation in Northern Ontario is in a fight to protect its rights from exploration and to recover the land in question from the Ontario government.

Big Trout Lake has been dealing with the government in the land claims process for years, but is now before the courts defending against a \$10 billion lawsuit filed against them by Platinex, an upstart exploration company.

The First Nation, otherwise referred to as KI or Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug, turned around and sued the company and the provincial government for failing to consult them directly on issues relating to the disputed land.

"We're in Treaty no. 9 and the consultation obligations falls on the crown," said David Peerla, the mining coordinator for Nishnawbe Aski Nation, which is providing assistance to KI. "All of the Supreme Court decisions affirm that."

"The problem in Ontario is that the province, which is the treaty partner, has been trying to delegate its obligations to companies like Platinex," Peerla added. "Platinex has been talking to the community; the problem is the community has a moratorium on resource development. The Crown has failed to show up and accommodate."

There are 1,200 Ojibwa/Cree living in Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug.

After the community affirmed its decision to place a moratorium on any kind of development on its land years ago, Platinex continued to stake and drill the land. The area is said to "possibly contain" large platinum deposits. A couple of months ago, community members set up a peaceful protest that halted exploration, but triggered the lawsuit.

"Resource development hasn't worked in the past," said Peerla. "There

is a legacy of mines on the territory that haven't been cleaned up. In this

particular case, there is concern that the exploration and drilling, and potentially a mine, will take place in a very sensitive watershed that drains into the Big Trout Lake, which is a critical part of their economy and activities."

At stake is a tract of land 15 kilometres from the community, which is not accessible by road.

"There is a very real environmental risk to their way of life this project represents," Peerla said. "And they have unresolved land claims that haven't been addressed."

Neal Smitheman, lawyer and spokesperson for Platinex, said the \$10 billion figure is simply a technicality. "What you have to do in litigation is you have to make sure you're not going to find yourself getting awarded more than what you ask for, because then you would have to consult your insurers," Smitheman told *the Nation*. "The life of a platinum mine could be 30 years, so the value could be \$10 billion. All Platinex wants at this stage is to get an injunction to get on the property to do exploratory drilling."

Peerla disagrees. He says that there is a motive behind suing for such a large number.

"The number, 10 billion, is designed to intimidate, silence and harass the First Nation," said Peerla. "It's not chosen accidentally. When I was up in the community, some members were saying it would take 200 years to pay off this bill. So it had the effect the company wanted."

At one point, Platinex brought in an ex-British Army Officer to mediate. It was also seen as a scare tactic.

"That's a very worrying trend," said Peerla. "We

don't know what his instructions were, but we're very concerned

about using private security in First Nations' disputes. At least the OPP is democratically accountable; you can have an inquiry and all kinds of checks and balances [if something were to happen]. But there are no checks and balances on private security firms entering into disputes with First Nations."

Peerla said the community will be asking the OPP how it can regulate private security firms in cases like this.

"They're not accountable to anyone," he noted. "They're common in Africa where they send an army to take over valuable mining deposits and protect them or to overthrow governments. The strange and worrying thing is to see them come to Canada."

Smitheman said that people overreacted at the use of a mercenary.

"It's not because he was a former British Army Officer that he was sent there, he just happened to be," said Smitheman. "I was in the Boy Scouts one time, but I wouldn't be referred to as a Boy Scout. This man has lots of experience in negotiating and dealing with situations like these and also to try to coordinate efforts so that the drill can come in. This has all been taken out of proportion. If he did anything, he calmed the situation down to ensure nothing unpleasant occurred."

KI is also legally challenging Ontario's Mining Act. "The problem is the courts say you must consult and accommodate First Nations prior to resource development," said Peerla. "But the Mining Act says that companies can go anywhere on Crown land and stake and explore. It's free entry. So there's this archaic 19th-Century law that says they can go anywhere. Here in Ontario, if someone finds minerals under your house they're theirs," he laughed.

Four community members are walk-



continued on page 9



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Many people in Eeyou Istchee have Diabetes, or know of someone who does. Quite often this can be someone they love. We know that healthier food choices are important, but let's face it, sometimes they can border on boring. Well, not anymore! Each issue of *the Nation* will feature a delicious meal that keeps in mind the importance of health maintenance but does not forget rich and hearty satisfaction.



Peanut Butter and Banana Cookies

Ingredients:

1/2 cup	peanut butter	125ml
1/4cup	softened margarine	50ml
1/3 cup	mashed ripe banana	75ml
1	egg	
1/2 tsp	vanilla	2ml
1 cup	all-purpose flour	250ml
1/2 cup	Splenda granular	125ml
1/2 tsp	baking soda	2ml
1/2 tsp	salt	2ml
	cooking spray	

Directions

1. Cream together peanut butter, margarine, banana, egg and vanilla until light and fluffy. Mix in remaining ingredients separately, and then blend peanut butter mixture until smooth.
2. Form into 1-inch balls and place on a non-stick baking sheet (a regular baking sheet with a thin coat of cooking spray will also do the job). Flatten the dough with a fork to desired thickness.
3. Bake at 350°F for 10 to 12 minutes or until golden brown on the bottoms of the cookies. Let cool on a rack for several minutes before serving. Makes 3 dozen cookies.

Nutritional analysis per serving (one cookie):

calories: 50
protein: 1.5g
fat: 3g
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Indian Summer: The Oka Crisis

First People's Festival premieres Native drama

by Steve Bonspiel

Sixteen years ago, Quebec and Canada as a whole, learned a tough lesson on Native affairs and the ever-present land issue.

In 1990, a peaceful protest in Kanesatake to protect sacred Native land, turned into a botched Surete de Quebec raid and left one SQ officer dead; all in the name of expanding a golf course.

The mini series film, *Indian Summer: The Oka Crisis*, succeeds on many levels, capturing of the essence of that time and the growing tension behind the lines.

It opens in the late 1800s with police hauling off a couple of local Kanesatake men to jail for cutting down trees on their own land to heat their homes and sell for food. The Sulpician priests gave the order and at that time, they were the ones in charge of many aspects of life in Kanesatake.

Throughout the story a single man, who appears as a ghost, stands with his brothers in the fight for the same pine forest he was jailed for in the opening scene for cutting down the trees. He appears as an ominous figure and is an effective means of illustrating the struggle Native people have had with the Catholic Church throughout the years.

The character building is also well done, as this reporter personally knows the main players in Kanesatake. They are

pretty much bang on.

Most people are familiar with the story, but for those who aren't, you should check it out when you get the chance. It's not only a Mohawk story; it is a piece of Canadian history on the big screen.

A touching moment during the question and answer period was when first-time actor Joseph Cross, the brother of the late Ronald Lasagna Cross, spoke about



Alex Rice portrays Ellen Gabriel

how he got the role as one of the more famous warriors of the crisis – his brother.

"I was in the (drug and alcohol) treatment centre when I heard about the auditions," said Cross.

"I thought that it would be too late for me to audition by the time I got out. One day I was sitting by the water and a butterfly flew around me. I kept staring at it and put my hand out. It landed in my hand and stayed there for a few minutes. I touched it. Then it flew away. It came back awhile later and landed on my hand again. That's when I thought of the similarities between us. Here was a beautiful butterfly that became that way from a lowly caterpillar. And now he was free to go wherever he wanted but he landed on my hand. I thought, 'That's kind of like me.' That's when I knew I would get out in time to try for the part and I got it."

A recent screening played to a half-empty Kateri Hall in Kahnawake, but the energy was enough to fill the whole room. Many people went up to the microphone to comment on the film and there weren't very many dry eyes in the house.

Indian Summer also showcased something people rarely got a chance to see; the back-door deals within the government and how provincial Indian Affairs Minister John Ciaccia made an attempt at nipping the crisis in the bud by asking his federal Indian Affairs counterpart Tom Siddon to purchase the land and hand it over to the Mohawks, at a cost of \$2 million. Siddon balked and the Oka crisis ended up costing both governments more than 30 times that amount.

There were key moments that the movie, which included news clips from the crisis, failed to address. One was the confrontation between Lasagna and Corporal Patrick Cloutier. The two of them standing face to face, warrior against soldier, was a moment shown around the world and encapsulated the Mohawks' 500 years of oppression and bad blood with the Crown.



Joseph Cross as "Lasagna"

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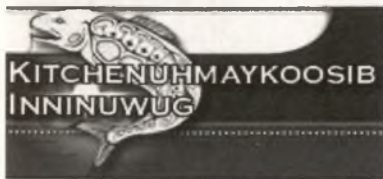
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community, citing an eventual need to work together. However he said time is of the essence.

"If we have to wait to get to court before we could try this case, the company would suffer irreparable harm," said Smitheman, who expects Platinex will be back to work in July if it receives an injunction during court hearings on June 22 and 23.

"If we can't get on the property, we're doomed," he said. "We can't wait for the First Nations and the province to determine what the land claims are. This has been going on for

ing to Ontario's legislature in Toronto to raise awareness of their plight. They are hoping to arrive on Aboriginal Day, June 21.

Smitheman said Platinex was reluctant to sue the

decades. We simply want to get on with what we're doing and not get caught in this political football game with respect to land claims. It really has nothing to do with us, but we feel effectively that we're a pawn between Ottawa, Queen's Park and the First Nations."

Peerla warned that much more was at stake than seeking out platinum deposits.

"Part of what Platinex claimed in their litigation is they want to create a treaty-free zone. In other words they want 8,000-plus acres, I guess, of area where no one can exercise their Aboriginal treaty rights," he said. "They also want to create a buffer around that area. Basically no one from the community would be able to get within 200 metres of this zone. This would be a dangerous precedent for Aboriginal treaty rights around the country."

in brief

Former O-J Band Councilor sentenced for sexual assault

Former Oujé-Bougoumou band councilor Lance Cooper was given a conditional sentence of house arrest for one year and 24 months probation after being convicted of sexually assaulting a 15-year old boy in the victim's own home.

The sentence, handed down in O-J June 12, means Cooper will be under house arrest for the first 12 months of his probation.

Because the January 30 incident happened in the youth's home, Cooper was also convicted of breaking and entering.

Under his conditions, he must keep the peace, be on good behaviour and inform the court or probation officer of a change of address, according to O-J Police Chief Harry Sharl.

He also cannot consume alcohol or drugs for 24 months, cannot have a cellular phone or pager or any other communication device.

Once the 12-month house arrest period is over, he will be on a curfew from 10 pm to 7 am until the end of his sentence.

He is obligated to register himself in the 15 days after the sentence was handed down in the National Sex Offender Registry. He also has to provide a DNA sample and has to notify any potential employers of his criminal history when seeking a job.

"That's the first time that I've heard of someone from O-J getting convicted of sexual assault," said Sharl, who has been on the force since 1998 and the interim Chief since January. "I don't think it was a

fair sentence. For what he did and to only get house arrest, that's not fair to the family.

"I mean, he doesn't even have to serve jail time, but this incident is going to stick with the youth for the rest of his life," Sharl added. "I think he should have gotten a harsher sentence. I got so many calls from people who were upset about it."

Natives most likely to be crime victims

Aboriginal people are far more likely to be victimized by violent crime, according to a new study.

The most alarming statistic from the report, published by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, showed that even though Aboriginals represented roughly three per cent of the Canadian population between 1997 and 2004, they accounted for 23 per cent of those accused of committing a homicide during that span. Also, 17 per cent of victims were Aboriginal.

The study also said that violent crimes were committed more often than not by someone who knew the victim.

A stranger victimized Aboriginal people in one-quarter of all violent incidents, as compared with 45 per cent of such incidents against non-aboriginal victims, according to the report. Aboriginals are 10 times more likely to be accused of homicide than non-aboriginals.

As far as domestic abuse, 21 per cent of Aboriginals said they had suffered violence from a current or previous spouse or partner in the five-year period up to

2004. The rate for non-aboriginals was six per cent.

Overall, Aboriginals were nearly twice as likely as their non-aboriginal counterparts to be repeat victims of crime.

The study found that Aboriginal people aged 15 to 34 were at greatest risk, with the rate of violent crime more than twice as high as the rate for those 35 years of age and older.

JBCCS To Get New Digs

In what may be their shortest special general meetings ever, a loan for a new building for the James Bay Cree Communications Society was approved. The half-hour meeting saw the resolution passed with no difficulties.

"It's something that we've been working towards for years so it's no surprise," said Luke MacLeod, executive director of JBCCS.

Mistissini Chief John Longchap remarked that the employees of JBCCS have had to work under difficult conditions due to the building they are working in and they are to be commended. "Communications is a powerful tool for the Cree and one that needs to be supported," said Longchap.

The building will be ready mid-November, just in time for the JBCCS annual general assembly.

The current building has problems with heating and mold and all will be happy to leave the premises, said MacLeod.

Does the Punishment Fit the Crime?

by Steve Bonspiel

Lenient sentences stemming from 1999 Supreme Court ruling partly to blame, says police director

Sexual assault cases are at epidemic proportions in Mississauga. In fact, when *the Nation* spoke to several key members of the community, they all had first-hand experiences with sexual assault, from simple touching to rape.

"Right now in Mississauga we have two sexual offences a month," Mississauga Police Director Calvin Blacksmith told *the Nation*. "That's 24 in a year. That's a lot. And that's not even half of the cases that come forward."

Blacksmith said that the precedent-setting 1999 Supreme Court of Canada case involving Jamie Gladue, which essentially states that Aboriginals should be judged based on their history, including residential school abuse, is the catalyst behind lenient treatment towards Aboriginal people within the justice system.

"The Gladue case was not in our favour," he said. "We're trying to protect the people and the community, but the sentences convicted criminals get are ridicu-



Mississauga Police Director Calvin Blacksmith

lous sometimes. One guy came up to me and told me that he knew he could commit a crime and get away with it, even murder. He said he saw the sentences handed down in court and was surprised at how small they were."

"If you can convince the judge that you went to residential school and it had an adverse effect on you, the judge will go easy on you," said a frustrated Blacksmith.

Blacksmith talked about answering a call of a violent and intoxicated minor. When police arrived, she was uncooperative and throwing things. It turned out, he said, that she was a victim of sexual assault and that was the reason for her behaviour. Blacksmith said that sometimes the family tries to keep these things hush-hush because the perpetrator is their brother or their father.

"If you can convince the judge that you went to residential school and it had an adverse effect on you, the judge will go easy on you."

"It's difficult when you work so hard and so many hours on a file and then the judge turns around and hands down a light sentence," he said.

Chief Justice Guy Gagnon, Quebec Court

The Nation contacted Guy Gagnon, Chief Justice of the Quebec Court and originally from Amos, to discuss the justice system in the north.

"The judicial process is not necessarily to please or to offend any members of the community," said Justice Gagnon. "It's to make sure that the cases proceed in the

Excerpts from the Supreme Court's Gladue decision

The 1999 Gladue case took into account an Aboriginal woman's background of alcohol abuse in the stabbing death of her boyfriend in British Columbia. Ever since, the case has been used to dole out lighter sentences to Aboriginals convicted of various crimes. In the Gladue case, the woman was convicted of manslaughter and given a three-year sentence. It set the jurisprudence for Aboriginal cases that followed in every level of court.

- Section 718.2(e) requires the sentencing judge to explore reasonable alternatives to incarceration in the case of all aboriginal offenders. Obviously, if an aboriginal community has a program or tradition of alternative sanctions, and support and supervision are available to the offender, it may be easier to find and impose an alternative sentence. However, even if community support is not available, every effort should be made in appropriate circumstances to find a sensitive and helpful alternative. For all purposes, the term "community" must be defined broadly so as to include any network of support and interaction that might be available in an urban centre. At the same time, the residence of the aboriginal offender in an urban centre that lacks any network of support does not relieve the sentencing judge of the obligation to try to find an alternative to imprisonment.

- The next question is the meaning to be attributed to the words "with particular attention to the circumstances of aboriginal offenders". The phrase cannot be an instruction for judges to pay "more" attention when sentencing aboriginal offenders.

context of the Gladue case. Having said that, if the Crown or the prosecutors are not happy with the result there is always a possibility of appealing the case to see if it is a fit sentence or not.

"The judges are there to apply the law and apply the rule of law that has been established in the case of Gladue. Maybe sometimes they are mistaken or maybe they are right on the point when they apply those rulings or precedents, but it is up to the prosecutor to appeal."

Gagnon went on to explain that every Aboriginal case tried before a judge is influenced by the Gladue case, which took into account an Aboriginal woman's background of alcohol abuse in the stabbing death of her boyfriend in British Columbia in 1999. That case has been used to dole out lighter sentences to Aboriginals convicted of various crimes since. In the Gladue case, the woman was convicted of manslaughter and given a three-year sentence.

"I support the case of Gladue, that's my duty. I think this decision was totally appropriate for the situation in the north."

Gagnon also said that anyone can get in touch with the Crown prosecutor if they are not pleased with a sentence. However, he stressed that there is a difference between an unpleasing sentence and an unfit one.

In other words it is not just because an individual wanted the accused to go away for 12 years instead of eight years that the Quebec Court of Appeal will necessarily hear the case. It has to be very clear that the sentence did not fit the crime. He also said that any successful appeal would affect future judgments.

"If you file an appeal once, this case will have to be considered for all the other cases," said Gagnon. "That would become the jurisprudence."

"We can't take for granted that an officer is not happy with the result that it means

automatically the case is not well-founded. When a sentence is not well-received by the community it doesn't mean it's not a fit sentence. There are two sides to the coin. There might be some people in the community, like the accused, who are happy with the sentence."

Gagnon has worked in Nunavik for 11 years and is very familiar with the northern reality. "I've spent many years in the north and I know that people from the north normally feel that the jail sentence will be difficult for them for

simply what we call being homesick," he said.

"I'm not saying this applies to all the members of all the communities, but sending a Native to jail is very often considered a more severe decision than sending other people because they don't live in the south and get homesick. That may have more of an effect on their personality than another person."

But Gagnon was quick to point out that not all Natives should be judged the same. "If you talk about Natives living around Montreal, there could be a different approach, I'm ready to concede that," he said.

"There are two sides to the coin. There might be some people in the community, like the accused, who are happy with the sentence."

"It's not that Natives should never go to jail, absolutely not. I'm saying that we should avoid that possibility if we feel that the reintegration of the accused into the community will be well-served by not sending them to jail and that members of the community will be supportive to the accused."

Gagnon went on to say that in each community, a justice

continued on page 13



Chief Justice Guy Gagnon

- It would be unreasonable to assume that Parliament intended sentencing judges to prefer certain categories of offenders over others. Neither can the phrase be merely an instruction to a sentencing judge to consider the circumstances of aboriginal offenders just as she or he would consider the circumstances of any other offender. There would be no point in adding a special reference to aboriginal offenders if this was the case. Rather, the logical meaning to be derived from the special reference to the circumstances of aboriginal offenders, juxtaposed as it is against a general direction to consider "the circumstances" for all offenders, is that sentencing judges should pay particular attention to the circumstances of aboriginal offenders because those circumstances are unique, and different from those of non-aboriginal offenders. The fact that the reference to aboriginal offenders is contained in s. 718.2(e), in particular, dealing with restraint in the use of imprisonment, suggests that there is something different about aboriginal offenders which may specifically make imprisonment a less appropriate or less useful sanction.

- Section 718.2(e) applies to all aboriginal persons wherever they reside, whether on- or off-reserve, in a large city or a rural area. In defining the relevant aboriginal community for the purpose of achieving an effective sentence, the term "community" must be defined broadly so as to include any network of support and interaction that might be available, including in an urban centre. At the same time, the residence of the aboriginal offender in an urban centre that lacks any network of support does not relieve the sentencing judge of the obligation to try to find an alternative to imprisonment.

- Based on the foregoing, the jail term for an aboriginal offender may in some circumstances be less than the term imposed on a non-aboriginal offender for the same offence.

- Sentencing is an individual process and in each case the consideration must continue to be what is a fit sentence for this accused for this offence in this community. However, the effect of s. 718.2(e) is to alter the method of analysis which sentencing judges must use in determining a fit sentence for aboriginal offenders.

[illegible]

Québec

continued from page 11

committee makes suggestions to the judge on the length of sentences to their people. These committees, said Gagnon, are made up of community members and are unique systems found only in the north.

A call to Mississini Justice Committee Administrator Louise Coonishish, however, demonstrated the limitations of their power.

She told *the Nation* that although it is called a Justice Committee, the main purpose of the committee is simply to help convicted small-time crooks, usually youth, find a place to serve their community hours – and that's pretty much all they do.

"We made a protocol on alternative measures to work with adults," said Coonishish. "We're in the process of trying to sign the agreement with Quebec. We're starting to receive adult cases but minor ones, like someone who has been fined \$100 to \$5,000."

She also said that people are not obligated to work with the committee, nor does the committee "run after" them if they fail to perform the court-appointed community hours.

There are panel meetings with the eight members to determine where the convicted criminal will do their community work. Members include Elders, middle-aged members and youth, according to Coonishish, who has been there for a year and has seen 100 voluntary cases since then.

Gagnon said that there are cases, such as a brutal rape, that leaves the judge no choice but to put the assailant in prison. "All the cases must be looked at individually. A simple touch could be sexual assault and we will not send the person to jail, unless we think he would be a danger to his community. It's the same even in the white community.

"Having said that, even if the guy spends 10 years in jail, the victim will meet them on the street one day," Gagnon continued. "The real question is not how you feel; you must be prepared to meet them on the street after two years, two months or 10 years. It's not because you're afraid to meet him on the street that he should spend 15 more years in

jail. We have to make sure that the accused has a fit sentence."

Bill, the victim's father

The Nation spoke with someone in the community who wished to remain anonymous concerning an incident that happened to his daughter last fall. We will refer to him as Bill.

"Last fall, when my daughter was 13, this guy let himself into the house," recounted Bill, who has two sons and two girls. "He went into my daughter's room and tried to rip her clothes off while she was sleeping. She woke up and was able to get away from him and run down to the neighbour's to call the police. In court he pled guilty and they gave him a sentence of six months house arrest."

The sentence, although lenient, would have been acceptable to Bill and his family, if not for one thing.

"My daughter was fine when he was sentenced, but when we saw him at the store and called the police to find out he was on a day pass, she was scared. Then we saw him a couple days later, then a couple days after that. Finally one of the police officers told me he gets a pass almost every day," said Bill, distraught.

"They put someone like this back into the community who admitted what he did and instead of getting a slap on the wrist, he got a pat on the back."

"For her it's like she has the sentence and he can do whatever he wants. She's scared to see him on the street. Every time she wants to go across town or wherever she has to worry that this sexual predator is hanging around and where he's hanging around."

Bill said that the sentences don't fit the crime and it is not only the sexual predators' freedom that is taken away.

"They're punishing the victim instead of the criminal. If the person was sentenced to house arrest and they couldn't leave for a certain amount of months that

would be a different story. But the guy who did this to my daughter gets passes all the time and he is seen around the community. We saw him drinking once, which is a breach of his conditions, and we called the police but they couldn't find him," he said.

"They put someone like this back into the community who admitted what he did and instead of getting a slap on the wrist, he got a pat on the back," Bill fumed. "What's he going to do the next

continued on page 15

-But s. 718.2(e) should not be taken as requiring an automatic reduction of a sentence, or a remission of a warranted period of incarceration, simply because the offender is aboriginal. To the extent that the appellant's submission on affirmative action means that s. 718.2(e) requires an automatic reduction in sentence for an aboriginal offender, we reject that view. The provision is a direction to sentencing judges to consider certain unique circumstances pertaining to aboriginal offenders as a part of the task of weighing the multitude of factors which must be taken into account in striving to impose a fit sentence. It cannot be forgotten that s. 718.2(e) must be considered in the context of that section read as a whole and in the context of s. 718, s. 718.1, and the overall scheme of Part XXIII. It is one of the statutorily mandated considerations that a sentencing judge must take into account. It may not always mean a lower sentence for an aboriginal offender. The sentence imposed will depend upon all the factors which must be taken into account in each individual case. The weight to be given to these various factors will vary in each case. At the same time, it must in every case be recalled that the direction to consider these unique circumstances flows from the staggering injustice currently experienced by aboriginal peoples with the criminal justice system. The provision reflects the reality that many aboriginal people are alienated from this system which frequently does not reflect their needs or their understanding of an appropriate sentence.

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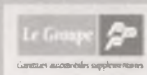
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CHIBOUGAMAU



time he gets drunk? Maybe the next kid won't be so strong or so lucky."

Bill warned about a growing trend of people taking the law into their own hands. His son, for example, was livid when he found out about what happened to his little sister. If something happens again in the future to the family, he might not wait for the courts to mete out justice.

"What do we do the next time something happens? We're supposed to show restraint and let police handle it when we know that nothing is going to happen of any significance? Or do you take justice into your own hands and call the ambulance instead of the police when you catch someone in your house trying to rape your daughter?"

"I think a lot of cases go unreported because they figure nothing is going to happen," said Bill. "Last week a friend's daughter got beat up by three guys trying to rape her. She didn't report it because she said nothing is going to happen anyways. They told me they would deal with it in their own way."

Bill says his daughter will be affected by the attack for the rest of her life. He

fears she might never return to the spunky little girl he once knew.

"She won't sleep alone in her room anymore," he said. "She'll have someone sleep with her or she'll sleep on the floor in her brother's room. She always sleeps with the light on. It's changed her life. She looks over her shoulder all the time."

The wait to get her in to talk to a psychologist is many months. It doesn't help that the psychologist is only available every two months for one week in Mississauga.

Police Chief Blacksmith said that another problem has to do with probation officers and the fact that they are located seven hours from the community. "When the probation officer calls or visits at supper time, which is rare, of course the guy is going to be home. It's at three in the morning they should go and check on them. That's when they are out in the community."

Blacksmith also mentioned the difficulty keeping tabs on the assailants without a warrant. "We can't just go in their house to see if they are there. Our hands are tied."

But Justice Gagnon said there are benefits to community oversight. He argued that the close-knit feel of the community can help the police when monitoring criminals. "Very often a conditional sentence is more work for the police officers because they are part of the verifications that must be done," he said.

"Those communities are very small and it's very easy to find out if they are at home. They know their brother and sister and father who live in the community and they can chat with those people to see if they are at home or not. Very often the parents will call us and say, 'My son is not at home. Can you do something?' So right away we know that they broke their conditions and we file a report."

When asked about extenuating circumstances, such as checking on the offender late at night or early in the morning, Gagnon was not swayed. "At 3 in the morning in a place like Wemindji, chances are if you patrol and the accused is on the street that you would find him very easily. Chances are also that there is some light on somewhere in the house that will get the officer's attention."

Tammy Coon, Senior Officer

Tammy Coon has seen many sexual assault assaults in her 14 years on the Mississauga force. She recently discovered that police officers who are not satisfied with a judge's ruling could appeal the verdict and try to get a harsher sentence. And that is exactly what she is doing in one case.

Rene Gunner, 57, was given a conditional sentence of 18 months May 11 after being convicted of inappropriate touching a minor under 12. He will be under house arrest 24 hours a day for the first six months, said Coon. Then for the next six months, he will have a curfew from 9 pm to 6 am. The last six months his curfew will be from 11 pm to 7 am.

"When Rene got his sentence, we went out of the building and a girl came up to

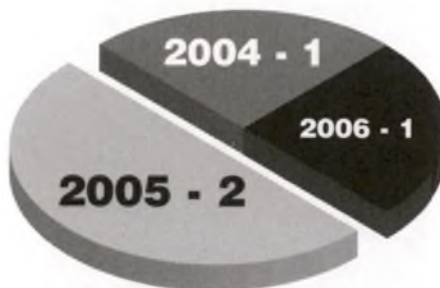
"People would rather not talk about it and don't want to go to court a lot of times."

Mississauga - Statistics

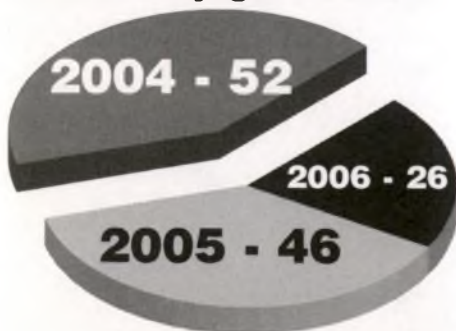
Sexual Assaults



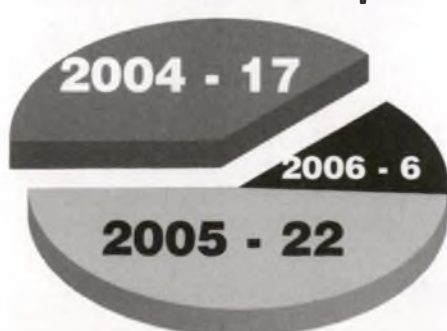
Forcible Confinement



Assault Conjugal Violence



Assault With a Weapon



me and said, 'That was a lousy sentence. He has a lot of victims and after this, what do you think they're going to do? They won't come forward. He gets to live his life and be at home.'

getting up and saying they have a problem and they need help. They can get help if they really want it."

Dorothy Nicholls, Vice Principal Voyageur Memorial



Voyageur Memorial School Vice-Principal Dorothy Nicholls

"It really made me think," Coon said. "People will think it's okay to do that because you get a slap on the hand and you get to be in the comfort of your home. The suspects are still in control. I don't think it should be like that. Rene told the judge he still had urges and he still let him go. There are kids in that area that he has easy access to."

Gunner was given other conditions; he is forbidden to contact children under 14 years unless accompanied by an adult. He also must keep the peace and continue to work on his sexual problem through counseling or at a treatment centre.

Gunner was also charged with sexually abusing the victim's mother many years ago. She came forward after her daughter was attacked.

Coon is pushing for a stiffer sentence of 18 months detention.

"This is my first time looking into a stiffer sentence. If I have to do each case individually I will. Even if it doesn't work, I'll try again," said Coon.

She said that the sexual offenders have places to turn to, to help themselves within the community; it's up to them to use them. "I know there are resources in the community for them like social services," she said. "It's a matter of them

Dorothy Nicholls is the vice-principal at the Voyageur Memorial School and has seen her share of fights among students. But she says that sexual abuse is creeping into her school. That alarms her, but she's not sure what to do.

"Sexual assault in the community has never been dealt with before," said Nicholls, who has raised three children. "People would rather not talk about it and don't want to go to court a lot of times."

"The victim has to live with it for the rest of their life and even if someone is charged, it's the victim that pays for the crime in the long run."

"I was afraid to be alone with adults and I didn't like being alone. I was always afraid someone would do something."

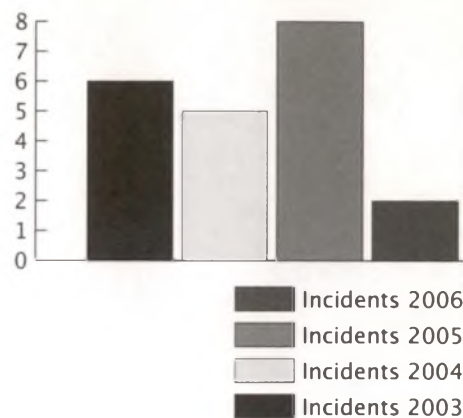
Nicholls told *the Nation* about increasing instances of inappropriate touching by older boys on younger girls, although she was not comfortable with having specific stories in the magazine.

"Whether the victim wants to be or not, they become tainted after a sexual assault. I think that's the reason more people don't come forward. It's hidden," said Nicholls.

Nicholls talked about instances of gas sniffing and self-mutilation by students in the past year. Signs, she thinks, of abuse, sexual or not, suffered by the students.

"The good values should be taught as home as well as in school. It's about respecting each other and the opposite sex," she said.

Nemaska - Sexual Assault



Roderick Rabbitskin, CBC North

Roderick Rabbitskin has been an Announcer/ Producer with CBC North for 14 years. As a young boy, he was a victim of sexual abuse at the hands of a family friend.

"It started when I was seven or eight years old and continued until I was 16," said Rabbitskin.

"It started with some drinking at my house. There was a fight going on and I was scared so I went to my room. That guy came in and told me not to worry, that he would take care of me, and he wasn't going to leave me.

"So I was in bed and he came to lie down and put his hand around me. Next thing I knew he had his hand in my pants. I tried to stop him but he told me not to say anything because if I made a noise,



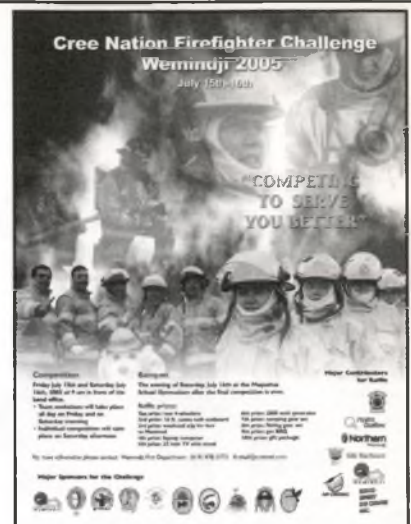
Roderick Rabbitskin, CBC North



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- 8:00 pm Spectacle / Show

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- 10:00 am Jeux pour enfants / Children games
- 11:00 am Histoire de nos Aînés / Story telling
- 12:00 pm Picnic
- 1:00 pm Jeux pour tous / Games for all
- 2:00 pm Histoire de nos Aînés / Story telling
- 4:00 pm Concours de talent / Pageant Talent Show
- 6:00 pm Festin traditionnel / Traditional Feast
- 7:00 pm Dévoilement des gagnants / Pageant Revelry
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Evacuation Photos





TOP PHOTO

Back Row: Mr. Michel Lemay, Director – Hydro Quebec, Gilles Pelchat, Graduate, Isik Mapachee, Graduate, Sam Weistche, Graduate, Christopher Swallow, Graduate

Front Row: Mrs. Diane Thibault, Director – Centre d'Etudes Polymétier, Mr. Willie Mianscum, Chairman – Cree School Board, Jacqueline Pelchat, Graduate, Stuart Wapachee, Graduate, Mr. Billy Diamond, President – Niskamoon Corporation, Mr. Gauthier – Commission Scolaire de Rouyn-Noranda, Nancy Pelchat, Graduate



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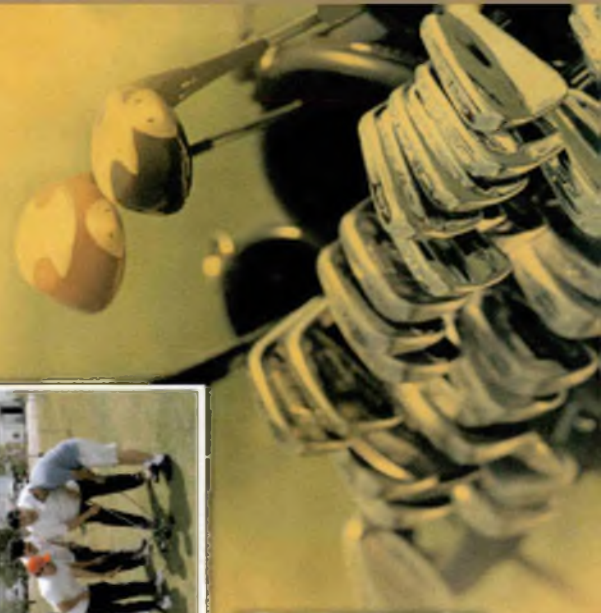
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'Those drunks will come in here and do something.'

"I tried to push him off but he was tall and heavy," he said. "He forced himself on me. I felt terrible. I never asked for that."

Rabbitskin had no choice but to keep it a secret because the man threatened to physically harm Rabbitskin's mother, who was partially blind.

"He forced me [over the years] to do things to him that I didn't want to," he said. "Sometimes he'd take me to the bushes, but I couldn't say anything because I didn't want anything to happen to my mom."

It was only ten years after his mother passed away on Sept. 27, 1984, that he could muster up the strength and courage to tell his family members. Rabbitskin, now 41, was 19 at the time.

Rabbitskin said the sexual assaults changed him forever. "I was afraid to be alone with adults and I didn't like being alone. I was always afraid someone would do something."

Letting it out has helped him tremendously. "Talking about it has made me feel a lot better. Before I would hide it from everyone and it damaged me. I felt depressed and I used to cry a lot. But after telling people, I'm doing a lot better."

Rabbitskin said at the time it happened in Mistissini, there were no support groups or professional help available.

"I feel angry when I see him. I confronted him one time and he said, 'You're crazy, I never did that to anyone.' He said I needed help and I should see someone. I told him he also needed help.

"People need to talk about things instead of keeping it to themselves," he said. "If you are going through this right now you need to come out and talk about it.

For Police Chief Blacksmith, Roderick's story illustrates how victims of sexual assault continue to hurt long after the criminal penalty is paid.

"When you commit a serious crime, that will affect someone for the rest of their lives," said Blacksmith. "It's not a bad idea to do some time. You can really look at yourself and where you made some wrong turns."

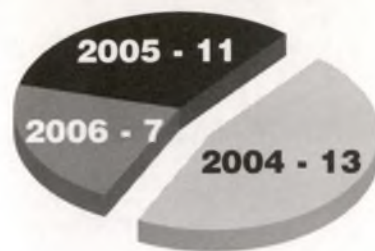
One of the solutions might be through traditional culture, he said. "I'd like to see a program where convicted criminals are taken out in the bush. Instead of being under house arrest, maybe they should go out and do portages to learn their history. They would have professionals with them as well. Our people used to paddle all the way to Caniapiscau.

"Right now Crees are concerned with losing their language and culture. That's the best way to preserve it would be to send them out there," he said.

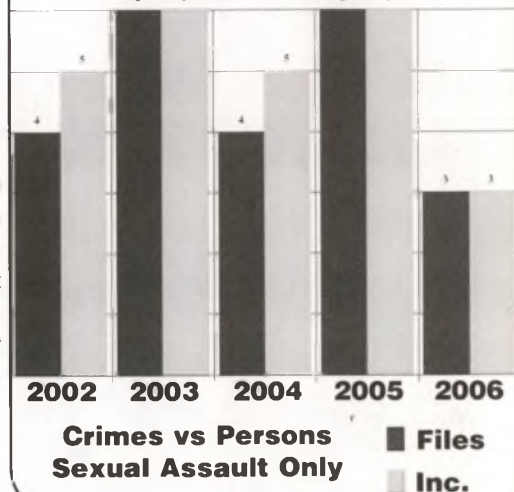
But Blacksmith said that using residential schools as an excuse for committing sex crimes does not fly with him.

"I think they're going to have to turn the page at one point," he said. "People use their history to get out of trouble. Sometimes you can reflect on the past but you have to move on and look forward. You can't just blame everybody for what happened to you," he said.

Waswanipi Sexual Assault Incidents - Stats



Waskaganish Sexual Assault Incidents - Stats



Police Stats

Nemaska
2003/01/01 – 2006/06/14
2003 Files: 6 – 2004 Files: 5
2005 Files: 8 – 2006 Files: 2

2005/01/01 – 2005/12/31
Sexual Assaults: file- 2 / inc. - 2/male – 1/female- 1
Assaults: file- 25/inc. - 30 / jailed- 4/sent to crown- 8 / male A. – 4/ Fem. A. – 6 / male Y. – 13. (Note : A – adult / Y – youth)
Sexual Assaults: 1
Assaults: file-16/incident- 16 /jailed- 4/sent to crown- 7 / male – 6/female – 2.

Wemindji
1/6/ 2005 – 6/7/2006

Assaults - 55 occ.
(3 inv. sexual assault)
Break. & Enter. – 9 occ.
Theft - 5 occ.
Band by-law infrac. - 123 occ.

Chisasibi:
2005/01/01 – 2006/06/08

Sexual Assaults :
2005 – 6 2006 – 1

Waswanipi
Sexual Assault Stats

2005: 9/ sent to crown – 3
2004: 13/ sent to crown – 5
2003: 6/ sent to crown – 5

Oujé-Bougoumou
Police stats for 2005

Attempted suicide 26
Suicide prevention - 6
Suicide - 1
Inc. ass. to public – 146
Family dispute - 7
Assult – conj. violence - 4
Assistance to public - 59
Assult (a & b) - 35
Impaired driving - 13
Theft - 11
Michief - 29
Sexual Assault – 3
Possession – 2
Possession for trafficking - 5
Assault with a weapon – 7
Breaking & Entering - 10

Mistissini

	2006	2005	2004
Assult conjugal violence	26	46	52
Assult with a weapon	6	22	17
Assult (Total)	21	140	111
Theft	7	27	37
Forcible confinement	1	2	1
Sexual interference	2	4	4
Sexual Assault	1	7	4
Sexual Exploitation	0	1	0

Whapmagoostui
Sexual Assault Stats
4/31/2005 - 6/14/2006

Sexual Assaults - 12

Waskaganish
Sexual Assault Incidents

2002 – 5 / 2003 – 6 /
2004 – 5 / 2005 – 6 /
2006 – 3
(until now May 2006)

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Under the gun

by Will Nicholls

It's often a frustrating job being a police officer, especially in small Northern communities like those in the Eeyou Istchee. Friends and family feel slighted when you won't give them or their loved ones a "break." Victims are upset because the perpetrator is back on the streets. Add to that a cocktail of alcohol and drugs where most Cree own at least one weapon and it's enough to stress anyone out.

It has to be even harder when you are overworked to boot. That is the message Cree police are trying to get out to community members.

Looking at police forces in Eeyou Istchee it is obvious that our police are understaffed in most communities. Chisasibi has a population of 3632 and only 10 officers. Mistissini has a popula-

tion of 3186 and 9 officer. Waskaganish has 7 officers with a population of 2330. Waswanipi uses 6 officers to police 1813 people. Lastly Wemindji has 6 officers for a population of 1266.

Meanwhile Attikameks from Obedjiwan with 60 per cent of Chisasibi's a population with 2209 people in their community has 13 police officers. Closer to Chisasibi's population is Uashat, a Innus community of 3328 people. They enjoy the protection of 14 officers (soon to be increased to 16).

Bill Namagoose, executive director of



the Grand Council of the Crees acknowledges there are disparities but says things are changing. "In our last negotiations we added ten more police. Negotiations are continuing with Canada and Quebec to increase budgets and services. We want to realize a Cree Nation police concept and we are working towards that," Namagoose said.

by Will Nicholls

Seven police officers are going to be gung ho for a while on the roads. Residents from Mistissini, Waswanipi, Ouje-Bougoumou and Wemindji may be in for a rough ride after the police officers finish their course. The seven officers are getting up to speed on the Highway Code of Quebec with training

being done in Mistissini. Taking the course are Thomas Bosum, Wasesquin Gunner, Victor Longchap, Sherman Mast, Priscilla Mark, Dale Petawabino and Jeffery Natawapineskum.

In other communities that police instructor Marc Belle-Isle has trained police in the highway code he said,

"You can see a light come on as they absorb the information. When they are finished they are sharks."

Most people would expect all training to take place in the Nicolet HYPERLINK

"<http://www.enpq.qc.ca/>" Ecole nationale de police du Quebec near Montreal. "We're making some courses and refreshers available in the communities itself," said Belle-Isle. He added

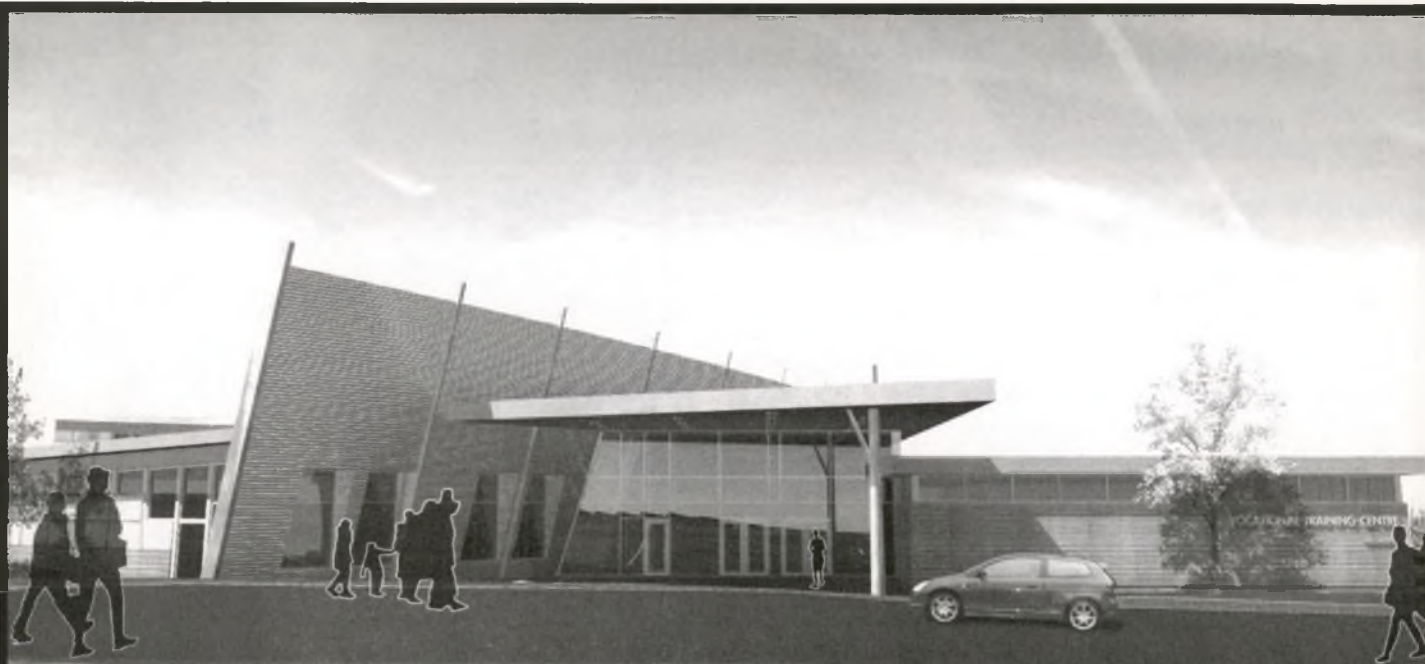


Caution on the roads

Nicolet have been doing in-service training for years especially with renewing courses on radar speed detectors. You have to refresh this skill every few years when you are a police officer.

The Highway code course costs \$561 per person and lasts five days. In any case we all know the best way to ensure you keep the knowledge you learn is to apply it. With that in mind be sure to be careful of any highway infractions in the coming months as the students are waiting to try out their skills.

Better yet, just don't speed or drive under the influence. Remember the designated driver method and be safe.



**SABTUAN REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE
OF THE CREE SCHOOL BOARD, IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE
THE NEW PROGRAMS THEY WILL BE OFFERING FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR 2006-2007
AT THE CENTER LOCATED IN WASWANIPi**

THE PROGRAMS GOES AS FOLLOWS:

Program Title	Hrs	Possible start	Possible finish
Secretarial Studies	1485	Aug. 2006	Oct. 2007
Carpentry	1350	Aug. 2006	June 2007
Professional Cooking	1350	Aug. 2006	June 2007
Hairdressing	1455	Oct. 2006	Oct. 2007

For more information please contact;

- Nancy Mianscum, Administrative Technician at the SRVTC at (819) 753-4040 (ext 223)
- The Education Consultant of your community

Online registration forms;

www.cscree.qc.ca, click on "Fall 2005 Grand Opening" then on "Programs" to access the registration form.

You can fax your registration form to Nancy Mianscum at (819) 753-2640

For your allowances for these programs, please see your CHRD officer in your community before you leave for Waswanipi.

*******DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATIONS IS
60 DAYS BEFORE THE START OF THE PROGRAM*******

Fires prompt Mistissini evacuation

by Steve Bonspiel

The people of Mistissini woke up to a frightening occurrence on June 7 after at least six forest fires were ignited by lightning and were threatening the community.

"Most people are gone, it's just the core people like the police, fire department, the health board, some volunteers and myself who are left," Mistissini Chief John Longchap, who is acting as spokesperson for the police and firefighters, told *the Nation* by phone June 8.

"There was lightning yesterday and no rain at all so within an hour the smoke started to get big and we called in the evacuation order around 6:15 [June 7]," he said. The community is not in any immediate danger, but we're not taking any chances with the people.

"There are about six or seven fires going around the community right now," he said. "There is one 6 kilometres away to the west, one 7 kilometres away to the north and the one we were most concerned about was in the southeast, where the wind was picking up and it was 13 kilometres away."

Longchap went on to say that the fire to the southeast would probably run into one of the lakes and stop there, but he cautioned that the fire can jump over the water, but a secondary barrier in the form of a swamp would most likely halt the fires progress.



"SOPFEU (La Société de protection des forêts contre le feu) has deployed their water bombers and we will get some people to help on the ground as it gets closer. Firefighters are on stand by right now and we're monitoring the situation."

Longchap said that there have not been any reports of elders having trouble breathing with the heavy smoke. The first

people evacuated were the elders and those with breathing problems.

Longchap said that 99 per cent of the community had been evacuated to the arena and some of the schools in Chibougamau. "It's been coordinated by the Red Cross in Chibougamau. The people are not used to being in one large area, but I spoke with [Deputy Chief] Kathleen Wootton and she said everything is going well."

Longchap couldn't remember when a forest fire was this close to the community, but he figured it had to be at least over 10 years ago.

After a brief 48-hour, the smoke had subsided enough and most of the community members returned home safely.

Longchap warned against careless behaviour in the forest. "The fires were not started by careless people, they were started by lightning. However, people should take extra precaution when thinking about making a camp fire or throwing away their cigarettes, especially under extreme dry conditions."





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Father's Day Celebration

by Dorothy MacLeod Nicholls

While attending university in Montreal, I had a chance to visit Louise (Jefferies). She gave me pictures her mother, Annie had kept of us when we were young. One photo, of my father and I, spoke to me. I am about three years old and my father is holding my hand as we stand side by side posing for the camera. Our family grew in size and too soon I was sent away to school. A separation that would never satisfy my childhood again. My father wrote long letters giving me a taste of home that I yearned for. I would count the days when he would come to visit and mourn the day he left. I tried to squeeze in all my accomplishments and failures....talking non-stop for a long period of time, all that I stored longingly to say and share with him before he left to go home again. He listened, guided and encouraged my ambitions, always telling me I could become anything I wanted if I really wanted to. But I would need to work hard to get there. My father said it and I believed it. I remember times when my father was busy buying goods for the store, pricing items into the late night and making entries into his ledgers. We understood that he had to work to put food on the

table. But the times I loved best is when he sat at the kitchen table and I could slip into the seat beside him. "Daddy." He gave me his undivided attention, listening to my dreams and he made me feel like a princess. I looked to him for his approval because I loved him so much. My grandfather was in "running" distance of our home. A place I ran to when I was in trouble with my mother. It was my grandmother I wanted to complain to and her sympathy I needed but my grandfather was the first one I bumped into. He had a way of bringing my complaints to a halt by saying, "It is not important. It is nothing. Don't dwell on it. Go listen to what you are told." Yet, I came to him with my hurts and he had a unique way of making them better. I burnt my finger tempting a lit candle by passing it across the flame. I caught the wax of the candle and it stung. He blew on my finger then made out to spit on it, saying, "There, it will be better now..." In my married life, we would visit my in-laws annually. My husband spent most of the time puttering around the yard, in the garage and going places with his father. My father-in-law was someone I admired and felt close to. I didn't want

to learn how to drive but he would tell me how important it was. Around the time when he needed to pass his driver's yearly he would make sure I went with him to renew my learners. He was there when we were thinking of going into business with friends. He made us look at what we were giving up – security and a good pension from my husband's job at that time of 15 years. Raising three boys was challenge that my husband was able to meet more than I. His method of discipline was stable and solid. Our boys grew up in a routine that allowed them to enjoy outside activities after homework was complete. He had a good sense of judgment when they became involved in mischievous play with others and they were the only ones who paid the price. His explanation that they were his children and he was responsible for them did not seem fair at the time. Lessons came from his father and he, in hope, would pass them unto his sons. How fortunate they are to have such a father. On Sunday, June 18, we honour all fathers for their care, guidance, support and love. A very happy father's day to you all. You are loved and honoured this day.

in brief

The Stay Quit to Win Challenge

Most smokers say they want to quit and some actually do. Below is a list of those who entered a Cree Health Board contest and won a healthier life as a result.

Adult Challenge

1st Prize: Alice Saganash from Waswanipi

2nd Prize: Robert Georgekish originally from Wemindji resides in Chisasibi

3rd Prize: Joshua Iserhoff from Nemaska

Adult Runner up prize winners

Nadine Okwunva, Whapmagoostui

Anna Lesco Cyr, Eastmain
Mina Mast, Whapmagoostui
John Moses, Eastmain
Martin Lewis, Ouje Bougoumou
Ernest Nakogee, Mistissini
Norma Pepabano, Chisasibi
Winnie Benjamin, Chisasibi
Vincent Mast, Whapmagoostui

Youth Challenge

1st Prize: Bruce Gilpin Eastmain
2nd Prize: Germaine Quachegan
3rd Prize: Clint Jolly

Youth Runner up winners

Jared Williams, Eastmain
Angela Tomatuk, Eastmain
Vincent Georgekish, Wemindji
Shayna Matoush, Wemindji

R a y m o n d
Mamianskum, Whapmagoostui
Russell Dixon, Waswanipi
Charlie Capassisit, Nemaska
Jimmy Happyjack, Waswanipi
Billy Boy Scipio, Chisasibi

Community Challenge

1st Prize: Whapmagoostui First Nation

School Challenge

1st Prize: Wabannutao Eeyou School
2nd Prize: Waapihitiwewan School

Ron Shisheesh and the Cree Health Board were given a "Honourable Mention" for their collective efforts to promote a tobacco-free lifestyle to youths, adults, schools and communities.

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Bolivia's land reform a victory for all indigenous peoples

Former coca grower Evo Morales launches 'agrarian revolution'

by Lyle Stewart

Evo Morales, Bolivia's first indigenous president, has launched what he called an "agrarian revolution" by redistributing 9,600 square miles of land to the South American country's Indian majority.

The June 3 announcement marked the first phase of a vast reform that will involve more than 77,000 square miles – an area larger than the province of New Brunswick – over the next five years.

"We want to change Bolivia," Morales, who leads the Movement Toward Socialism party, told thousands of Indians gathered in the eastern city of Santa Cruz to receive land titles. "Getting back the land means we are getting back all the natural resources, we're nationalizing all the natural resources."

Indeed, the move follows a May 1 decree to nationalize Bolivia's natural gas industry. According to Oscar Olivera, however, the gas nationalization will be a cakewalk compared to the agrarian reform, because rich and powerful landowners are fiercely opposed to the redistribution.

Olivera is a union official with the *Federación de Trabajadores Fabriles* (Federation of Manufacturing Workers) and is close to the Morales government. He gave an interview to *the Nation* after a meeting with officials of the CSN union federation in Montreal June 7.

The mostly white landowners, known in Bolivia as the *latifundistas*, control roughly 90 per cent of Bolivia's arable land, Olivera explained. Bolivia's native majority have been dispossessed since the Spanish Conquest, pushed into the highlands or used as cheap labour on the huge white-owned farms or in the mining industry.

Despite the historical injustice and the fact that the reform affects only unused or illegally occupied lands, said Olivera, the political right in Bolivia and beyond want to make a stand over redistribution because it could have an influence throughout the Americas.

"The land holds all of Bolivia's wealth," Olivera observed. "So there will be consequences to this. I fear there will be confrontations."

The *latifundistas* have vowed to form so-called "self-defence" groups. Olivera says that some landowners have already engaged former paramilitary death squad members from Colombia as mercenaries to train and lead these groups.

"Bolivia is on the verge of major change," said Olivera, who also helps run the *Escuela del Pueblo Primero de Mayo*, a workplace-based school of activism whose former director is now the official spokesperson for Evo Morales. "The *latifundistas* and other powerful right-wing groups want to break our country before it can happen."

But Bolivia's native majority intends to defend its political and economic gains won after Morales' election last January. Olivera said several indigenous groups are organizing to fight off any threat from the landowners.

Despite his union's support for the Morales government, Olivera said the pace of the government's land redistribution is too slow. Already, according to reports, some enemies of the

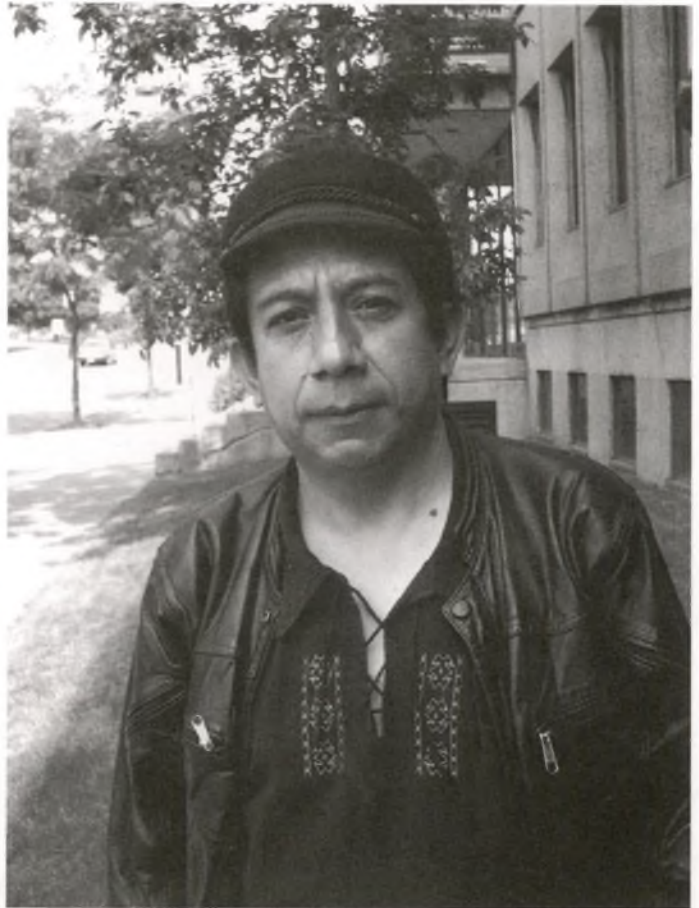
reform are paying people to occupy other lands to create disturbances.

"I think it is too cautious. It should happen faster in order to take away the opportunity for the *latifundistas* to organize resistance," said Olivera.

The changes in Bolivia mirror progressive change in a number of Latin American nations in recent years – especially Venezuela, whose president, Hugo Chavez, is a close ally of Morales. While U.S. attention has been turned toward the Middle East, democratic left-wing movements have been able to make progress throughout the region, including in Argentina, Brazil and Chile. The next test is in Mexico, where progressive presidential candidate Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador is neck and neck in the polls for the July 2 vote.

Perhaps nowhere, however, is change more profound than in Bolivia. The election of Morales, a former coca leaf grower, represents more than a turn to the left; it means major social change for a country whose native majority has been systematically deprived of power or its rightful share of the economic pie.

"The question of the land could provoke a civil war and affect the stability of the whole continent," said Olivera. "But it will also finally give power to indigenous peasants in Bolivia, those who have never had it."



EMPLOYMENT

JOB OPPORTUNITY

POSITION: Head Chef

TERM: Full-Time (six month's probation)

SALARY: According to Qualifications,
Experience & Budget

DUTIES: As Per Listed (but not limited to)



Requirements

The successful candidate will have:

- Secondary V, with chef's training or equivalent work experience to be considered as a definite asset;
- good cooking and meal planning skills;
- an excellent ability to work well and calmly under pressure;
- an ability to work independently and as part of a team;
- good organizational skills as well as people management and communication skills;
- The ability to speak Cree and English, with knowledge of French to be considered as an asset.

Duties

Reporting to the Manager and the Assistant Manager, the Head Chef is responsible for overseeing the operations of the kitchen and kitchen staff. Specific tasks include, but are not limited to:

- supervising and preparing work schedules for cooks and dishwashers/cook helpers, and ensuring that cooks rotate shifts on the "frontline", "daily specials", "breakfasts/brunches" and "desserts";
- arranging replacement workers in the event of absences;
- planning and pricing well-balanced menus, and reviewing same on a regular basis according to seasonal availability and costs;
- ensuring equipment is fully functional and in a good state of repair;
- ensuring the kitchen area is always kept in a clean and orderly state and that staff maintain excellent hygiene standards;
- verifying daily food checklist;
- verifying food quality on a daily basis, such as checking "best before" dates and ensuring refrigerated food is rotated correctly (i.e. using older ingredients first);
- overseeing efficient use of ingredients;
- ordering food and kitchen supplies;
- instructing, overseeing, and helping staff in the preparation, cooking, garnishing, and presentation of food;
- providing assistance and feedback to cooks on "daily special" planning;
- assisting Management in the selection of new kitchen staff and in the evaluation of existing staff;
- reporting offences under the Personnel Policy to Management;
- Other tasks that may from time to time be assigned by the Manager or Assistant Manager as the case may be.

All interested candidates should submit their application and resumes no later than
Friday June 30th 5:00 pm to: Management of Kanio-Kashee Lodge

P.O. Box 360 - Waskaganish, Quebec - J0M 1R0 - info@kanio-kasheelodge.ca

SCREEN SHOTS

Summer Movie Lineup – July

by The Shadow Critics



Miami Vice (July 28) For those who remember the popular television series starring Don Johnson and Philip Michael Thomas, this is not a spoof like last year's *Starsky and Hutch*. The main characters are still Sonny Crockett and Ricardo Tubbs, but the movie has been updated to reflect a modern sensibility. Like the series, the movie plot centres on two detectives in Miami who work in drug enforcement, so expect high-speed chases in cars and speedboats, bad guys armed to the teeth and an ocean of beautiful women.



My Super Ex-Girlfriend (July 21) The plot is about an architect played by Luke Wilson who breaks up with his girlfriend (Uma Thurman). Little does he know, his ex-girlfriend is not about to accept the break-up without extracting a little payback. Or, it might be more appropriate to say she wants to extract a lot of payback.



Lady in the Water (July 21) In this tale from M. Night Shyamalan, (*Sixth Sense*), a building superintendent finds a sea nymph swimming in his pool. The story was actually a tale Shyamalan used to tell his daughters at bedtime, and is quite believable in this recounting. The superintendent is played by Paul Giamatti (*Sideways*), and Bryce Dallas Howard, who is the daughter of director Ron Howard.



You, Me and Dupree (July 14) This comedy of manners focuses on Dupree (Owen Wilson), who moves in with his best friend, played by Matt Dillon, and his new wife, played by Kate Hudson. Camped out on the living room couch, Dupree seemingly does not want to ever move out.



Monster House (July 21) Animated story of a house that comes alive to do battle with a group of neighbourhood children. Note the PG warning, as the makers pushed the edge of the rating to create an animated spooky story with a new type of animated technology which allows the characters to have more realistic facial expressions.



Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest (July 7) This will likely be the blockbuster movie of the summer as the all-star cast reunites to make the sequel to the 2003 film. The plot centres on a reunion of Captain Jack Sparrow's friends to help him battle Davy Jones and his army of undead pirates. For those devoted fans, they shot two sequels back-to-back so we should expect a third installment by next summer.



Barnyard (July 28) This animated feature stars a cow who is tempted to let the human world know that animals possess human abilities. The plot, however simple, deals with some big issues such as adoption and responsibility. There is a story here that might not fit it easily into a cute summer children's movie.



Pathfinder (July 14) This summer movie is set in the time of Viking contact with Native American tribes. It promises to bring a new perspective on Viking berserkers' lust for battle, and in this case, their encounters with Native American warriors.



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Services gouvernementaux
Canada

Office of Small and Medium Enterprises (OSME)

Public Works and Government Services Canada (PWGSC) wishes to announce that the Office of Small and Medium Enterprises (OSME) has expanded to open six new regional offices across Canada. The OSME regional offices are being located in PWGSC regional headquarters in: Halifax, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Edmonton, and Vancouver.

The regional offices are part of the OSME's overall effort to make procurement more accountable and cost-effective by ensuring small and medium enterprises (SMEs) have access to compete for government opportunities. The OSME will ensure this access through collaboration with industry associations and individual businesses on procurement policy changes, and through the delivery of training, information, and support tools to SMEs.

For more information, please visit the following website: www.pwgsc.gc.ca/sme, or e-mail: osme@pwgsc.gc.ca, or call: 1 800 811-1148.

Bureau des petites et moyennes entreprises (BPME)

Travaux publics et Services gouvernementaux Canada (TPSGC) souhaite annoncer que le Bureau des petites et moyennes entreprises (BPME) prend de l'expansion et qu'il a ouvert six nouveaux bureaux régionaux au pays. Les bureaux régionaux du BPME sont situés dans les bureaux régionaux de TPSGC à Halifax, Montréal, Ottawa, Toronto, Edmonton et Vancouver.

Les bureaux régionaux participent à l'effort global du BPME visant à rendre le processus d'approvisionnement plus rentable et efficace en veillant à ce que les petites et moyennes entreprises (PME) aient la possibilité de participer aux occasions de marchés publics. À cette fin, le BPME consultera les associations sectorielles et les entreprises sur les modifications des politiques sur les achats et il offrira du perfectionnement, de l'information et des outils pour appuyer les PME.

Pour plus de renseignements, consultez le site Web www.tpsgc.gc.ca/pme, ou communiquez avec le BPME par courriel, à l'adresse bpme@tpsgc.gc.ca, ou par téléphone, au numéro 1 800 811-1148.

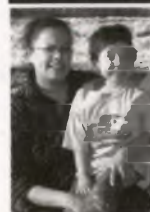
Canada

BIRTHS – 100

IT'S A BOY!!! WE WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE OUR FRIEND ANGELINE MCLEOD AND BF TYRONE MOSES ON THE SAFE ARRIVAL OF THEIR NEW BUNDLE OF JOY BRETON COLE MOSES, BORN ON MAY 25/06. WEIGHING 8LBS 10OZ.TAKE GOOD CARE OF

YOUR BABY BOY. FROM UR FRIENDS
COLLEEN & PATRICIA

BIRTHDAYS – 101



HAPPY BELATED (5TH) BIRTHDAY TO KHAYDEN OTTER RUPERT AND MANY MORE TO COME. WE ALL LOVE YOU. YOU

BRING JOY AND HAPPINESS TO OUR HEARTS AND OUR LIVES . KNOW THAT GOD HAS HEALED YOU AND RESTORED YOUR LIFE , NOT ONLY YOURS BUT ALL OF US , AND OTHER PEOPLE THAT PRAYED FOR YOU. TO ALL THE CREE COMMUNITIES "THE NATION" READS.


MAY YOUR HEART BE FILLED WITH CONFIDENCE IN TIME OF FEAR. MAY YOU BE RESTORED TO BE USEFUL IN THE COMMUNITIES, AND YOU WILL BE GOING TO SCHOOL IN THE FALL. MAY GOD GUIDE YOU, INCREASE YOUR BODY AND SPIRITUAL STRENGTH , EVERYDAY, LOVE ALWAYS, GRANDMA, GRANDPA, MOM, BROTHER, SISTER, AUNTS, UNCLES, AND FRIENDS. (GOD BLESS YOU ALL. LOVE KHAYDEN)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU JEANETTE ROJAS, AND MANY MORE TO COME I HOPE YOUR DAY WILL BE AS BRIGHT AS YOU ARE. GOD BLESS YOU AND KEEP YOUR EYES ON HIM. YOUR THE APPLE OF HIS EYE. YOUR FRIEND ALWAYS OLIVIA COUCHEES

WE WOULD LIKE TO WISH OUR GRANDPA RONNIE GEORGEKISH A HAPPY FATHER'S DAY LOVE YOUR "BUDDY" JACOB AND YOUR "HONEY" MAYKAYLEE LOVE YOU GRANDPA XOXOXO

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS GOING OUT TO OUR NISH GIRL, SHAWNESSY JACKO(WEESICKDOW MESSY HAIR) ON JUNE 10TH, 2006. FROM YOUR FRIENDS, RUTH & SEANNA

I'D LIKE TO WISH A HAPY BELATED BIRTHDAY TO MY BABY TROY THOMAS GUNNER ON JUNE 5, 2006.. I REMEMBER THE DAY YOU WERE BORN. YOU WERE A MONTH EARLY AND AND I ALMOST HAD YOU IN SUDBURY...LOL I DIDN'T WANT TO HAVE YOU IN SUDBURY SO WE DROVE TO VALDOR...LUCKLY WE MADE IT THERE AND RIGHT WHEN I GOT OFF THE VAN TO GO TO THE HOSPITAL...MY WATER BROKE...I WAS HAVING A BAD DAY THEN...LOL BUT IT WAS ALL WORTH IT CAUSE I LOVE YOU WITH ALL MY LIFE..I THANK GOD FOR YOU AND YOUR BROTHER AND SISTER EACH PASSING DAY...CAUSE YOU GUYS ARE MY WORLD AND I LOVE YOU SOO MUCH LOVE YOU ALWAYS JESS M.GUNNER. OUR UNCLE PATRICK IS CELEBRATING HIS BIRTHDAY IN WASKAGANISH ON JUNE 11, 2006. HAPPY BIRTHDAY UNCLE PAT!



UNDER THE NORTHERN SKY

One man's junk

by Xavier Kataquapit

One Saturday morning I heard of some local yard sales taking place and decided to head into town to see what I could find. Whenever anything goes up for sale for a good price I am ready to have a look. I think this comes from the experience of living in a remote northern community where there are few things available for purchase and anything for sale is often very expensive.

While I roamed around the different yard sales I discovered that there is a sort of culture of people that enjoy the idea of a yard sale or a garage sale. Some bargain hunters actually devote their weekends during the springtime to visiting yard sales.

I remember my first experience with a yard sale on a Saturday morning. I was living with the Locke family in Timmins while I was attending high school and every spring, they devoted their Saturday mornings to checking out as many yard sales as possible. I recall thinking the activity was strange, but as soon as I discovered that I could buy old comic books, small tools, gadgets, clothes, toys or camping equipment for mere dollars or even pennies, I was hooked.

Now I take the time once in a while to explore many types of yard or garage sales. Sometimes I am amazed at the things people throw out or want to sell. There is a lot of truth in the old saying – “one man's junk is another man's treasure.”

In my recent Saturday morning garage sale visits, I found two pairs of perfectly good snowshoes for a great price. These were the traditional wooden types with the hide webbing and varnish finish. I was fast to pick them up, as they are hard to find today.

The purchase at a yard or garage sale is often a bit emotional. The used products you buy from another person come with an untold story or history of use. When I got the snowshoes home I noticed the well-worn edges, the weathered leather straps and the nicks and markings of a hundred trips into the bush. I could easily imagine the family taking them out on cold winter days to wander around on trails lined with snow-covered pines as they trudged through deep mounds of fresh, crisp snow.

When you come from a remote northern community, everything is valuable. One of the difficult realities of living in the north is the fact that we don't have easy access to everything. I find that when I go to garage

sales I have to hold myself back from buying everything I see. When I see something for sale I imagine what use I could put it to. Sometimes I buy things just to have the luxury of having an item available to me. How can you ever have enough pry bars, clamps, wrenches and screwdrivers?

At one sale, I surprised my friends when I picked up an old Singer sewing machine for a few dollars. It was a model from the 1970s that still worked perfectly. It was well maintained and even oiled to keep the parts from rusting. I imagined all the hours of work someone would have spent around this old sewing machine, hemming clothes, making new ones, fixing old pants or even making a quilt blanket.

My friends did not quite understand my purchase, but I had great plans on how I would use my new sewing machine. I grew up in a household where sewing was a part of our lives. Since we had no easy access to modern stores that had large stocks of clothing for good prices and the fact that we were a family of nine children, mom and dad could not really afford to buy us new clothes all the time. Instead, mom took on the task of repairing our old clothes on a regular basis. She resized our shirts, hemmed our pants, repaired holes in our jeans and darned socks that were worn out. She even taught us how to do some of the work. I remember taking a lesson in darning socks from mom and my sisters when I was a restless youngster looking for something to do.

The sewing machine was the centre of most of mom's work. When she wasn't mending clothes, she was making something new. Even through all the work of caring for a large family, she found time to make traditional parkas with embroidered designs of hunters, animals or other images of the north. She made these and other things to provide our family with another means of income to make our life better.

Now the question is when will I actually sit down at the old sewing machine and do something? I have lots of old work clothes that need mending so the need is there. Well, even if I don't really get down to it right away, I can just take a little time once in a while to look at this marvel of technology and feel good about the great deal I got for seven dollars.

CLASSIFIEDS

HOPE YOU HAVE FUN ON YOUR DAY AND REMEMBER BE GOOD :D WE MISS YOU LOTS...WE HOPE YOU COME SOON AND VISIT US.PS WE MISS OUR LIL CUZIN PRECIOUS AND HER MOMMY CHERISH(K)

LOTS OF LUV FROM YOUR 2 NIECES JAYLENE & CHELSEY ALL THE WAY FROM MISTISSINI...XOXOX

WE WOULD LIKE TO SAY A HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR WONDERFUL DADDY JOEY F B/SMITH ON JUNE 21, 2006. HAPPY BIRTHDAY DADDY!! HOPE YOU HAVE FUN WITH US ON YOUR DAY. WE ARE VERY THANKFUL TO HAVE A DADDY LIKE YOU, THE TIME AND CARE YOU HAVE FOR US. WE LOVE YOU DADDY XOXOX...LOTS OF LUV FORM YOUR 2 DAUGHTERS JAYLENE & CHELSEY(K)

WE WOULD LIKE TO SEND A "HAPPY BIRTHDAY" GREETINGS TO THE FIRST MAN IN OUR LIVES, MR. JOHN WAPACHEE WHOSE CELEBRATING ON JUNE 10, 2006. HAPPY BIRTHDAY, BABE, AND MANY MORE TO COME..HUGS AND KISSES FROM THE LADIES IN YOUR LIFE FROM ME,TB & WASK.

WELL, GUESS WHO IS GETTING OLDER. MR. JOHNNY WAPACHEE IS CELEBRATING OR CELEBRATED ANOTHER BIRTHDAY ON JUNE 10, 2006. HAPPY ?? BIRTHDAY, JOHNNY, HOPE YOU ENJOYED YOUR SPECIAL DAY, AND WISH YOU MANY MORE. FROM FAMILY AND FRIENDS IN WASKAGANISH.

WE WOULD LIKE TO SAY HAPPY 9TH BIRTHDAY TO MY NEICE HATTIE OTTEREYES FR, MISTISSINI...HOPE YOU WILL HAVE FUN ON YOUR BIRTHDAY.AND MANY MORE BIRTHDAY'SO COME. LOVE YOU. FROM LOVE ALWAYS: S.SHASHAWESKUM & E.SHASHAWESKUM (WEMINDJI)

I'D LIKE TO WISH MY FRIEND A HAPPY BIRTHDAY ON JUNE 30, 2006. THIS BURDIE OF MINE IS EVANGELINE PETAWABANO. JUST WANTED TO LET YOU KNOW THAT I CARE AND MISS YOU AS A FRIEND. I WILL *ALWAYS* BE HERE FOR YOU.

ONCE AGAIN, HAPPY 2? BIRTHDAY AND MANY MORE TO COME LOVE IN FRIENDSHIP: MARION (WASK)

I WOULD LIKE TO SEND BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO MY CHILDHOOD FRIEND CYNTHIA LONGCHAP, HER BIRTHDAY WAS ON MAY 30TH HOPE YOU HAD FUN ON YOUR BIRTHDAY, HAPPY BIRTHDAY AND MANY MORE TO COME! NO I DIDN'T FORGET! BTW, WHERE ARE YOU?:S LOL, FRIEND ALWAYS. ANNIE

MY SPECIAL BIRTHDAY WISHES GOES OUT TO MY SWEET LITTLE NIECE ANNIE FLORENCE JOY MOAR SHE CELEBRATED HER 2ND BIRTHDAY ON MAY 31,2006. AND ALSO TO MY LOVABLE NEPHEW JONATHAN MOAR CELEBRATED HIS 3RD BIRTHDAY ON JUNE 2,2006. MAY YOU BOTH FIND ALL THE WONDERFUL BLESSINGS THAT GOD HAS FOR YOU TWO. ALSO MAY HIS LOVE SHOWER YOU EACH DAY. WITH ALL MY LOVE & PRAYERS, AUNTIE JO-ANNE & FAMILY

I WOULD LOVE TO WISH MY SWEET COUSIN KARA-LYNN COX A HAPPY BELATED BIRTHDAY ON MAY 17,2006.

MAY YOUR DAYS BE AS BEAUTIFUL AS YOU ARE. GOD BLESS! WITH MUCH LOVE,JO-ANNE, JULIANNA & ASHLYN (MIST)

HAPPY 1ST WEDDING ANNIVERSARY TO URIAH NEEPOSH AND HIS WIFE CHRISTINA ON JUNE 11.06. MANY MANY MORE "HAPPY ANNIVERSARIES" TO COME...TEE-HEE. FROM: MICHAEL, CINDY, KAYLEIGH AND THE LITTLE ONE ON THE WAY.(MIST)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO MY AUNT STACY NEEPOSH ON JUNE 15/06. MAKE SURE YOU INVITE ME FOR SOME CAKE. I'M GONNA BE A NICE GIRL AND I WILL FINISH MY MEE-JIM BEFORE I ENJOY THE CAKE AND THEN I'LL GO HOME AND BE HYPER THERE. FROM: KAYLEIGH A.K.A MEEJIMWASH

I WOULD LIKE TO SEND SPECIAL BIRTHDAY GREETINGS MY BROTHER, ROBERT STANLEY KATAPAYTUK WHO CELEBRATED ON JUNE 2ND IN

MOOSE FACTORY, ONTARIO. BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO MY COUSIN, MARCELLA ECHUM-SMALL WHO WILL BE CELEBRATING ON JUNE 17TH. HAPPY BIRTHDAY MARCELLA! FROM..YOU KNOW WHO!

HAPPY 9TH BIRTHDAY TO A SWEET YOUNG GIRL....TO OUR ONE AND ONLY DAUGHTER ANDREA .M.BLACKSMITH. NINE YEARS AGO ON THE 20TH OF JUNE 1997, GOD BLESSED US WITH A PRECIOUS LITTLE GIRL AT 5:08 IN THE MORNING WEIGHING 7LBS 11OZ. TO HAVE HER AS A DAUGHTER IS A WONDERFUL GIFT FROM GOD AND IT IS THE GREATEST GIFT OF ALL. ANDREA, HOPE YOUR DAY'S AS SPECIAL AS A SWEET GIRL'S DAY SHOULD BE - FILLED WITH FUN AND HAPPY TIMES THAT FIT YOU PERFECTLY!! ONCE AGAIN HAPPY 9TH BIRTHDAY SWEETIE!! WITH LOVE, HUGS AND KISSES FROM; MOM AND DAD (MAGGIE & JIMMY BLACKSMITH) P.S WE LOVE YOU SO MUCH AND ALWAYS WILL.

HAPPY BELATED BIRTHDAY TO MY SISTER MINNIE AND HAPPY 3RD BIRTHDAY TO TRINITY MASTY ON JUNE 6.2006 MANY MORE BIRTHDAYS TO COME FROM PATRICIA,GORDON SNOWBOY & FAMILY

I, ALAYNA JOY WOULD LIKE TO WISH MY DADDY NATHAN TO HAVE A HAPPY 1ST DADDIES DAY. DAD, I LOVE YOU, SO MUCH,ALWAYS IN MY HEART . MY MOMMY AND I MISS YOU SO MUCH. ONCE AGIN HAPPY FATHER'S DAY AND MANY MORE TO COME XOXOXOXO.

WE WOULD LIKE TO SAY HAPPY FATHER'S DAY TO OUR DAD ALLAN DIAMOND, WHO NOT ONLY BEEN THE BEST DAD IN THE WORLD, AND THE BEST GRANDPA, TOO. DAD WE WANTED TO WISH YOU A VERY HAPPY FATHER'S DAY. YOU HAVE BEEN THERE FOR US . WE ARE SO BLESSED TO HAVE A DAD LIKE YOU. THANKS FOR ALL THE THINGS YOU DONE FOR US. LOVE ALWAYS

SHARON, DARLENE AND ALAYNA JOY.XOXOXOX

HAPPY BELATED BIRTHDAYS TO OUR 2 LITTLE BUDDIES, ANNIE'SH ON MAY 31 AND ON JUNE 2. JONATHAN'SH HAPPY BELATED BIRTHDAY KIDS, FROM SHARON, DARLENE AND ALAYNA JOY.

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY TO MY DAD THOMAS. I LOVE YOU LIKE THE WAY YOU LOVE ME! I LOVE THE TIMES WE SPEND TOGETHER AS FATHER AND SON. I LOVE YOU, SO MUCH, ALWAYS,4-EVER! FROM YOUR SON; JUSTIN.

WISHING OUR DADDY THOMAS NEACAPPO A HAPPY FATHER'S DAY JUNE 18, 2006 DADDY WE LOVE YOU, SO MUCH, ALWAYS, FOREVER LOVE YOUR DAUGHTERS; JUSTINE AND JUSTINA NEACAPPO.

A BIG HELLO TO THE 14 LADIES WHOM WERE MY STUDENTS IN WEMINDJI. I MISS YOU A LOT AND WHEN SOME OF YOU GIVE ME NEWS FROM THE OTHERS, I'M SO HAPPY! CONGRATULATION FOR THE OPENING OF YOUR SECOND DAYCARE AND I WISH YOU LOTS OF SUCCESS. BY THE WAY, CONGRATULATION FOR YOUR LITTLE GIRL VIVIAN AND CAN'T WAIT TO HEAR FROM ARITA WITH HER SECOND BABY.TAKE CARE.

WE WOULD LIKE TO WISH A HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO 2 VERY SPECIAL PEOPLE, JAMES AND LINA NEEPOSH. JAMES ON JUNE 18 AND LINA ON JULY 3. HAPPY BIRTHDAY, WE LOVE YOU AND WE MISS YOU! FROM EUGENE, HILLORY AND YOUR GRANDSON PHOENIX XXX...

I WOULD LIKE TO SAY HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO MY MOTHER NANCY WAPACHEE FROM NEMASKA! ON JUNE 29 2006. HAPPY BIRTHDAY MOM AND MANY MORE TO COME...LOVE:CHARLOTTE AND HAZEL..WE LOVE YOU SO MUCH AND THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING YOU HAVE DONE FOR US! (OH YEAH AND TO MY CUZ AMEILA NEEPOSH FROM MISTISSINI.HAVE FUN!.)

ON JUNE 17, 2006 WE WOULD LIKE TO SEND A SPECIAL BIRTHDAY

CLASSIFIEDS

WISH TO A PARTNER/FATHER/
FRIEND/COMPANION WHO WILL
TURN A YEAR OLDER TODAY, DON'T
WORRY DA-DA YOUR STILL SEXY IN
MOMMY'S EYES. HAPPY BIRTHDAY
ALEX/ DA-DA BLACKSMITH. LOVE
FROM YOUR GIRLFRIEND SUE &
SON JACOB & SIBLINGS. XXXX

ANNOUNCING THE 1ST BIRTHDAY
OF OUR PRIDE & JOY, JACOB ALEX
VINCENT B/SMITH ON JUNE 22, 2006.
OUR BABY HAS TAUGHT US A LOT IN
THE PAST WHOLE YEAR ANE EVERY
MOMENT IS MEANT TO BE WITH
HIM. WE, DAD, & MOM AND YOUR
SIBLINGS CASEY, AMANDA,
ALEXANDER & JOHNNY WANT TO
SEND YOU A BIG KISS TO YOU ON
YOUR SPECIAL DAY. YOU WERE
BORN FOUR WEEKS PREMATURE
AND WHEN WE LOOK AT YOU NOW,
IT IS HARD TO BELIEVE THAT YOUR
TURNING ONE, WHILE EVERYONE
ELSE IS DOUBLE DIGIT NUMBERS.
WE WISH YOU ALL THE BEST IN ALL
THAT YOUR LIFE CAN OFFER,
JACOB BLACKSMITH . XXXOOO
LIKE MOM LIKES TO SAY YOU ARE
THE CHERRY ON TOP OF THE ICE-
CREAM...HAPPY BIRTHDAY BABY.

WISHING A HAPPY FATHER'S DAY TO
KEVIN MIANSUM, I LOVE YOU
MORE THAN WORDS CAN SAY, AND I
BELIEVE THAT YOU CAN ACHEIVE
ANYTHING IN LIFE AND I'LL
ALWAYS BE THERE TO HELP YOU
AND GUIDE YOU TO YOUR TRIALS,
STRUGGLES AND ESPECIALLY
YOUR DREAMS. ONCE AGAIN HAPPY
FATHER'S DAY, LOVE ,CYNTHIA
BLACKNED.

WE WOULD LIKE TO WISH OUR
GRANDMA JOSEPHINE MARTIN-
HUNTER A HAPPY BRITHDAY ON
JUNE 14/06 WE LOVE YOU SO SO
MUCH FROM UR GRANDCHILDREN
DUSTIN, TARA, AMERA MARTIN-
HUNTER

I WOULD LIKE TO WISH MY DADDY
KEVIN BEARSKIN, A HAPPY
FATHER'S DAY I LOVE YOU SO
MUCH FROM YOUR BABY GIRL
AMERA

WE WOULD LIKE TO WISH A HAPPY
FATHERS DAY TO ARE DADDY

PATRICK WAYNE LOON (MIST) WE
LUV U SO MUCH AND HOPE U ENJOY
YOUR SPECIAL DAY FROM YOUR 2
BOYS AYDEN AND YOSH TIN

JOYEUSE ANNIVERSAIRE A MON
MARI HARRY T. DE OJ POUR LE 28
JUN JE VEUT DE TE SOUHAITER LA
PLUS BELLE DES JOURNEE ET
MERCI DE FAIRE DE MOI LA FEMME
LA PLUS HEUREUSE AU MONDE JE
TAIME,PASSE AUSSI UNE TRES
BELLE FETE DES PERES TU EST UN
PERE FORMIDABLE POUR LES
FILLES DE TA FEMME ANOUK.

R.TSHISHATSHITIN XOX P.S.NE TIN-
QUITE PAS JE SAIS SE QUE TU
DESIRE POUR TON ANNIVERSAIRE...

POUR HARRY, BONNE FETE DES
PERES DADDY DE TES FILLES
MEEGUN, PEYTON, SHIKUAN,
MENUTAN SHARL FROM O.J I
LOVE YOU VERY MUCH DADDY.

I WOULD LIKE TO WISH MY DAD
DAVID SANDY A HAPPY FATHER'S
DAY. DAD, YOU HAVE HELPED ME IN
SO MANY WAYS THROUGHOUT MY
LIFE AND THE THING THAT IS
ALWAYS WITH ME, WHEN YOU TOLD
ME "WHEN LIFE GETS TO HARD
FOR YOU, REMEMBER THAT I AM
THERE TO CATCH YOU WHEN YOU
FALL AND IF YOU NEED SOMEONE
TO HOLD YOU I AM THERE TO
CARRY YOU, WHEN YOU ARE
STRONG ENOUGH TO WALK ALONE
AGAIN, THEN I WILL LET GO, BUT
ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT I AM
ALWAYS FOR YOU" WHEN I REMEM-
BER THAT, IT GIVES ME GREAT
STRENGTH KNOWING THAT YOU
ARE THERE FOR ME. I WOULD LIKE
TO THANK YOU FOR ALL THAT YOU
HAVE DONE FOR ME AND MY CHIL-
DREN, LOVE ALWAYS YOUR DAUGH-
TER SHIRLEY COOPER

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY TO OUR
DADDY DAVID.WE LOVE YOU &
THANK YOU FOR BEING THERE FOR
US. YOU'RE THE GREATEST!YOUR
GIRLS.MICHELINE & MIRANDA.

FOR MY DAD GILBERT...WITH EACH
YEAR THAT PASSES, I AM MORE AND
MORE GLAD,TO KNOW YOU, TO
LOVE YOU,TO JUST CALL YOU
DAD.THERE'S ALWAYS A PLACE FOR

YOU DEEP IN MY HEART.THANK
YOU FOR BEING A GREAT DAD..I
KNOW I DON'T SAY THIS AS OFTEN
AS I SHOULD BUT DAD,I LOVE YOU!
YOUR DAUGHTER,MELINDA

I WOULD LIKE TO WISH A HAPPY
6TH BIRTHDAY TO MY PRECIOUS
DAUGHTER MICHELINE GEORGE-
KISH ON JUNE 25.ANOTHER YEAR
HAS COME TO CELEBRATE THE
GIFT OF YOU...I THANK THE LORD
FOR BLESSING ME TO HAVE YOU &
YOUR SIS IN MY LIFE.IT IS SUCH A
BLESSING TO BE YOUR MOTHER
AND I LOVE IT SO MUCH...MY GIRL,
I LOVE YOU SO.ENJOY YOUR BIRTH-
DAY & CONGRATS ON YOUR
K I N D E R G A R T E N
GRADUATION!LOVE FOREVER
MORE.MOM (MELINDA)

ON JULY 5, 1995, WE RECEIVED A
LITTLE MIRACLE FROM
ABOVE,AND NOW HE'S GOING TO
CELEBRATE HIS 11TH BIRTHDAY.
HOW YOU HAVE GROWN TO BE A
HANDSOME YOUNG MAN,
CHRISTOPHER JACK HESTER. WE
ARE SO PROUD OF YOU, AND WE
WANT TO ENCOURAGE YOU TO GO
REACH FOR YOUR DREAMS, ANY-
THING IS POSSIBLE.

WE WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU, MOM,
DAD (BARBARA & JACK) & YOUR SIS
CRYSTAL..PS GOOD LUCK ON YOUR
AAA TOURNEYS.

I WOULD LIKE TO SAY HAPPY
FATHERS DAY TO MY DADDY COOL
ISAAC RUPERT I WOULD LIKE TO
THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING
THAT YOU HAVE DONE FOR ME AS I
WAS GROWING UP AND WHEN MOM
PASSED ON YOU HAVE PROVEN HOW
GREAT YOUR LOVE IS FOR US BY
TAKING ON BOTH ROLES AS A
FATHER AND A MOTHER TO US.I WAS
VERY PROUD THAT YOU HAVE
CHANGED YOUR LIFE FOR THE BET-
TER. MY LOVE FOR YOU IS UNCON-
DITIONAL YOUR FAVORITE GIRL
SUZIE RUPERT (WHAP)
WE WOULD LIKE TO SEND THIS
BIRTHDAY GREETING TO OUR DAD,
JACK ALLEN DIAMOND, WHOSE
BIRTHDAY IS ON JUNE 20TH, THANK
YOU DAD FOR BEING THERE FOR US,

AND JUST FOR BEING OUR DAD.WE
LOVE YOU VERY MUCH. HAPPY
BIRTHDAY. FR: CHRIS AND CRYSTAL
WASKAGANISH

I WOULD LIKE TO SAY HAPPY
FATHER'S DAY TO MY MAN DEREK
JUST WANTED TO REMIND YOU
AGIAN HOW MUCH I LOVE YOU AND
AND FOR BEING SUCH A WONDER-
FUL DADDY TO OUR HANDSOME
BOYS YOUR GAL SUZIE

TO MY HUSBAND JACK A. DIAMOND
EVER SINCE YOU CAME INTO MY
LIFE, YOU HAVE FILLED IT WITH
LOVE, LAUGHTER, AND LOTS OF
SPECIAL TIMES. THRU IT ALL YOU
HAVE BEEN MY BEST FRIEND. AND
ONCE A YEAR YOUR SPECIAL DAY
ARRIVES, SO I WANT TO WISH YOU A
VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY ON JUNE
20TH. I LUV YA SO MUCH. BARBARA.

WEDDINGS - 102

CONGRATULATIONS TO FRANCINE
WEISTCHE & CLARKE SHECAPIO
FOR THEIR WEDDING ON JUNE 10,
2006. MAY YOU ALWAYS CHERISH
YOUR SPECIAL DAY, AS YOU CELE-
BRATE WITH FAMILY & FRIENDS,
ONCE AGAIN CONGRATULATIONS,
FROM ALICE & ARDELLE
SHECAPIO.

CONGRATULATIONS TO FRANCINE
& CLARKE ON THEIR WEDDING IN
WASKAGANISH ON JUNE 10/06. IT
WAS SUCH A JOY TO BE ABLE TO
SHARE YOUR SPECIAL DAY WITH
YOU. BEST WISHES AND MANY
HAPPY YEARS TOGETHER. FROM
DIANE, JOHNNY & KIDS

GRADUATION - 104

CONGRATULATIONS TO LILLIAN
WAPACHEE ON COMPLETING
ANOTHER YEAR AT LAKEHEAD
UNIVERSITY IN THUNDER BAY, YOU
ARE THAT MUCH CLOSER ON
ACHIEVING WHAT YOU SENT ON
DOING. I KNOW WE HAVE GIVEN
YOU A HARD TIME THROUGHOUT
THE YEAR, WE ARE SORRY FOR
THAT AND WILL TRY AND BE BET-
TER NEXT YEAR. WE ARE SO VERY
PROUD OF YOU. LOVE ALEXANDRIA,
JAMIEE, JORDAN, JAKE, VANESSA,
TREY AND BAILEY.

by Neil Diamond



Moose TV



A crisis was threatening to erupt on the forested set of *Moose TV* just as executive producer Ernest Webb drove in early one morning. Lead actress Jennifer Podemski was in her trailer suffering from a mysterious ailment that had coloured her skin a disturbing shade of red. Someone wondered aloud if she might have trampled on some poison ivy. "Yeeeah, it was all over the ground when we were shooting in the woods," said Adam Beach, in that relaxed, surfer dude voice of his. Podemski had a scene to shoot after lunch and no Oscar worthy make-up job or method acting can mask the symptoms caused by the vine. Producers Catherine Bainbridge and Christina Fon seemed aware of this fact and quickly drove off to base camp to investigate.

Movie shoots, from the low-budget guerrilla production to the Hollywood blockbuster, confront crises of varying degrees almost every day. A camera might malfunction, an attention-seeking extra could blurt out improvised lines, a dopey actor will repeatedly miss his mark, an airplane will fly over just as romantic kiss is planted, a cell phone will ring, a lead actress will get jailed, or a star will walk off the set too hung over to continue. Yet, the show must, and often does, go on.

Crisis averted, Podemski arrives on set in time for lunch looking ready for her close-up. Nathaniel Arcand is also pre-

pared for Jennifer's close-up when they film a hilarious morning-after-last-night scene. Arcand's character Clifford Matthew is dressing and talking on the phone as Podemski's Alice Cheechoo lustily pulls down his jeans, pushes him back on the bed and proceeds to bite and straddle him. Director Tim Southam looks to be enjoying his work immensely and chuckles audibly even before he calls cut. After numerous retakes and different angles the scene is captured and the crew move quickly setting up for the next shot.

Leonard George, the son of the late, great actor and chief, Dan George, is waiting for his call to set when Arcand storms out of a building, "I hate this shirt! I didn't approve this costume!" He rips off the T-shirt and flings it into the nearby bush, where it hangs as the costume lady glares at him. She doesn't notice but the actor is half joking and already smiling as he plops down half naked beside Ernest Webb at the snack table.

"Sorry about that guys," he says. The tense moment passes as quickly as it appeared and the actors are soon called to rehearse the next scene. Leonard George, dressed as a Mistissini Elder, passes by Ernie Webb and asks what he should say before he delivers his English lines, "Agoodah," replies Webb. "Agoodah, agoodah, agoodah..." says George as he heads to work, studying the script.

The community of Moose, like any small community, has more than its fair share of quirky characters. There's wily George and brazen Alice, played by Adam Beach and Jennifer Podemski, who've just escaped the big city. Nathaniel Arcand's upstanding Clifford, who unlike most of his peers, stayed behind to do right by his town. Gary Farmer's corrupt but still cuddly mayor

Gerry Keeshig. These and other characters many people will recognize are the brainchild of partners in life and crime, Ernest Webb and Catherine Bainbridge of Rezolution Pictures. *Moose TV*, still in production, will air on Showcase sometime in 2007.

The day is ending in the fictional town of Moose and, as in any Native community and as if on cue, the mosquitoes and other flying pests are beginning to bug the residents and refuse to yield to Southam's direction. A few takes of a complicated shot are ruined as the tiny hungry beasts buzz around and dive bomb the cast and crew. "Can you do something about these bugs??" whines an actor to no one in particular. But there is nowhere to flee to and the director knows no mercy and will not wrap until he's finished and happy with the final scene of the day.

The glamour of the movies exists only after the grunt work's been done, long after the camera's whirl has died, the director's cry of "It's a wrap!!", and the producer's command to reshoot. The magic of film appears only when the audience has assembled in the dark and the screen begins to glow.





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